

Writing on January 28, 1913, to Governor Hiram W. Johnson of California, who had been the Progressive nominee for Vice President, Boosevelt gave this estimate of the future prospects of the Progressive party as affected by the course which Wilson as President might follow:

"Our chance depends upon there being a break in the Democratic party. If they had nominated Judson Harmon last year, I think we should have won anyway; but Wilson was from their standpoint the best man that they could have nominated. I do not regard him as a man of great intensity of principle or conviction, or of much reality of sympathy with our cause. He is an adroit man, a good speaker and writer, with a certain amount of ability of just the kind requisite to his party under present conditions. He showed his adroitness during the campaign, and he may well be able to show similar adroitness during the next four years in the Presidency, and with the same result. In the campaign he talked ardent but diffuse progressiveness. He championed concretely a number of minor things for which we stand, and he trusted to the fact that the Bourbon Democrats, especially the Bourbon Democrats of the South, but also those of the North, would feel that they had to stand by him because their only hope is in the Democratic Party. He may do the same thing successfully as President."

Another estimate of President Wilson, together with Boosevelt's views on a single Presidential term amendment

to the Constitution, appears in a letter to me
at Panama on
February 10, 1913:

"Wilson has a very difficult party situation,
but a difficulty is always also an opportunity. If he is
big enough to master his party he may make a great
record and rivet
the attention of the country upon him. At the
moment they
are trying to pass a constitutional amendment
aimed primarily at me, but also at him. In his case
they offer him
the sop of six years certain instead of a
possible eight years,
and he may be willing to accept six. For my
own sake I
very earnestly hope they will pass the
amendment, but from